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# *Cross of Christ Lutheran Church*

4500 Rimer Rd, Concord, NC 28025

Church 704-782-8483 Parish Hall 704-795-0445

Parsonage 704-786-3643

***The Rev. Rafe Allison, Pastor***

*A NALC Congregation*



*Welcome to worship at Cross of Christ!*

*In the Cross of Christ I glory †*

***Fourth Sunday After Pentecost***

***June 25, 2023***

OUR ACCOMPANIST

MRS. YVONNE YOST

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

\* OPENING HYMN    *“External Father, Strong To Save”*    **LBW 467**

\*APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE: “*Glory Be To The Father*”

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it  
was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, and the second system covers the second line. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the melody.

\*SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, the strength of those who hope in you,  
**Be present and hear our prayers; and, because in the weakness of our mortal nature we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, so that in keeping your commandments we may please you in will and deed; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20: 7-13 (ESV)**

O LORD, you have deceived me,  
and I was deceived;  
you are stronger than I,  
and you have prevailed.  
I have become a laughingstock all the day;  
everyone mocks me.

<sup>8</sup> For whenever I speak, I cry out,  
I shout, “Violence and destruction!”  
For the word of the LORD has become for me  
a reproach and derision all day long.

<sup>9</sup> If I say, “I will not mention him,

or speak any more in his name,”  
there is in my heart as it were a burning fire  
shut up in my bones,  
and I am weary with holding it in,  
and I cannot.

<sup>10</sup> For I hear many whispering.

Terror is on every side!

“Denounce him! Let us denounce him!”

say all my close friends,  
watching for my fall.

“Perhaps he will be deceived;  
then we can overcome him  
and take our revenge on him.”

<sup>11</sup> But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior;  
therefore my persecutors will stumble;  
they will not overcome me.

They will be greatly shamed,  
for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonor  
will never be forgotten.

<sup>12</sup> O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous,  
who sees the heart and the mind,  
let me see your vengeance upon them,  
for to you have I committed my cause.

<sup>13</sup> Sing to the LORD;  
praise the LORD!

For he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hand of evildoers.

The Word of God for the people of God!

**Thanks be to God!**

### **PSALM 91: 1-10 (ESV)**

### **READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE**

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

<sup>2</sup> **I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust.”**

<sup>3</sup> For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence.

<sup>4</sup> **He will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;**

**his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.**

<sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,

<sup>6</sup> **nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.**

<sup>7</sup> A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.

<sup>8</sup> **You will only look with your eyes  
and see the recompense of the wicked.**

<sup>9</sup> Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—  
the Most High, who is my refuge—

<sup>10</sup> **no evil shall be allowed to befall you,  
no plague come near your tent.**

## **SECOND READING: ROMANS 6: 12-23 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. <sup>13</sup> Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. <sup>15</sup> What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, <sup>18</sup> and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup> I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. <sup>20</sup> For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup> But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup> But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end,

eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of God for the people of God!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 10th chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**\*THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. MATTHEW 10:5, 21-33 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>21</sup> Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, <sup>22</sup> and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup> When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. <sup>24</sup> “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. <sup>25</sup> It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. <sup>26</sup> “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. <sup>27</sup> What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you

hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. <sup>28</sup> And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. <sup>32</sup> So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

This is Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

PASTOR RAFE ALLISON

\*SERMON HYMN

*“When Peace Like A River”*

**LBW 346**

**Chorus:** It is well (it is well)

With my soul (with my soul)

It is well, it is well with my soul

\*APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen**

## RECEIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### \*THE OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, Lord,  
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### \*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

#### \*THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**



\*BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.

**Amen**

\*SENDING HYMN

***“Lead On, O King External”***

**LBW 495**

\*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*POSTLUDE

(\* **Please stand as you are able**)

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The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Tim and Kim Kluttz's 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Community Outreach** is asking for donations for Mt. Pleasant Food Pantry for the Sundays of **6.18 – 7.9**. The needs are as follows: Tomato soup, Canned Pasta (spaghetti's, ravioli, etc), Cereal, Pasta Sauce, Pancake mix and syrup. Thank you for providing for those in need.

Our new LED church sign will be dedicated in memory of Darrell Barrier **following worship today**. Darrell's family honored his wishes by providing the funds necessary for the project in his memory. We will depart from the sanctuary to the grounds surrounding the sign immediately after the worship service.

Amanda Faggart's **Aurora Winterguard Team** is holding a **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser** hosted by **Calvary Lutheran Church** from **4PM-8PM on Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**. Tickets are \$10 pp for adults and \$5 for children under 12.

The **PBnJ Youth Group** painted **Prayer Rocks** at their June meeting. The painted rocks have been placed inside and outside of the church. If you find one, you can do one of two things. Pick it up, say a little prayer for someone, and place it back where you found it or, keep it and see Meredith for the prayer that goes along with it. Happy Hunting!

Hello Gardeners and Canners!! Don't forget the upcoming **Fall Bazaar, October 21, 2023**, will be here soon. Can a few extra of your summer harvest to donate and sell. If you have extra produce – let us know. We have canners who will can it for the Bazaar!.

<b>Weekly Offering Report For: <u>Week No: 25</u>      <u>Date: June 18, 2023</u></b>			
2023 Weekly Needs:	\$3,674.98	YTD Budget Needs:	\$91,874.50
<b><u>Last Week</u></b>			
General Tithes Received	\$4,355.00	YTD Gen. Tithes Received	\$89,947.00
Last week Above Needs	\$ 680.02	YTD (Deficit)	(\$1,927.50)



June 25, 2023

*We ask that you always have an individual's permission before requesting their name be added to our Prayer List. Contact Pastor Allison or Prayer List Coordinator Belinda Campbell to request additions or changes.*

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people... 1Timothy 2:1*

### **In the Fellowship of Cross of Christ**

John Faggart; Joyce Harkins; Candice Horton; Doris & Frank Kluttz; Carl Pless; Carson Seagraves (Recovery from knee repair surgery on 6/21/2023); John & Linda Trull; Dot Weast; Rand Yost.

### **Serving in the Military**

Eaven Allison (Okinawa, Japan)

### **Friends of Cross of Christ**

Veronica Barber and family and fiancée Jeff; David Buckland; LeaAnne Buckwell; Delores Carpenter; Mary Cox; Steve & Angie Dixon; Alisa Erts; Jane Faggart; Pastor Jeff Faggart; Wanda Floyd; Joyce Furr; Ralph Furr; Alley Handy; Brandon Lewis; Kaye and Gerry Litzinger; Ensley Morgan; Karen Morgan; Steve Parker; Ronnie Procter; Lettie Reid (Mother of Joyce R. Pless – experiencing a very painful time with shingles); Susan Starling; Connie Walters; Candace Yates; Vickey Belk Young

### **General Prayer Concerns**

#### **Praise List:**

- Earlene Cox - would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, texts, and phone calls. I truly felt all the love.

**\*\* Please remember our shut-ins with a visit, phone call, card, or email along with your prayers**

**Today - June 25, 2023**

Sunday Church School                      9:00 AM  
Family Worship Service                      10:00 AM  
Dedication of New Church Sign 11:00 AM

**This Week**

***Saturday***    Youth & Leaders return from TVR

**NEXT SUNDAY**

9:00 AM    Sunday Church School Classes  
10:00 AM    Holy Communion Worship Service

**Next Sunday's Readings**

*Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*

Jeremiah 28: 5-9  
Psalm 119: 153-160  
Romans 7: 1-13  
St. Matthew 10: 34-42